SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Please listen to me. Let the Chair decide. It should be enough if the Prime Minister could sit for 15 minutes or 30 minutes.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: It is at 6.00 p.m. in Lok Sabha.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Prime Minister has shown his willingness to answer the clarifications, but has expressed his inability to sit here because he has some important business, the Women's Reservation Bill, in the Lok Sabha. It is coming up at 6.00 p.m. I don't think you will come in the way of the Women's Bill. Mr. Malkani, I know you are interested to get the answers which the Prime Minister will send to you. Oral or in writing, it is one and the same thing.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: It is not one and the same thing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Everybody has agreed. I thing I can adjourn the House.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: The Prime Minister could have made his Statement at 4.00 p.m. or 4.30 p.m.

THE DUPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Malkani, you are forgetting that today is the Private Member's Day. The Prime Minister could not have been allowed to make it at 4.00 p.m. These things are linked to each other. I very much appreciate your keenness to ask some questions. Mr. Prime Minister, please give answers to the clarifications at your earliest convenience because generally it takes six months for the replies to come.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: Madam, all the questions will be responded to very expeditiously. I will not take more time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prime Minister, we are going to adjourn the House in three minutes. I think you can sit for three minutes.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Madam, it will take three minutes to go to the other House. Please let him go.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prime Minister, if you have to go, you can go. So, we have finished our business. Before I adjourn the House *sine die,* let me share with the House the business transacted during the current Session.

The Session which was in three parts commenced on Thursday, the 20th February, 1997 and we have had 36 sittings spread over more than 189 hours. During the session, there was a detailed discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address. One hundred and thirty one reports/ statements on the Action Taken Reports of various Parliamentary Standing Committee were presented or laid on the Table of the House. Substantial legislative work has been accomplished, including return of 13 Government Bills and passage of 13 other Bills. We had discussed the working of the Ministries of Planning and Programme Implementation, Welfare and External Affairs. During the Session, two new Committees, i.e., the ethics Committee and the Empowerment of Women Committee, were constituted. We had only one Calling Attention regarding increasing insurgency in the North-Eastern States. We had one Short Duration Discussion regarding deteriorating law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh. We had two Half-an-Hour discussions regarding employment to persons displaced by the Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited, and policy of appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts. In aggregate, there were 17 Statements of the Prime Minister and other Ministers, which occasioned a number of clarifications being sought by the Members. There were also more than 84 Special Mentions on matters of

public importance. Three references were made in the House on the tragic death of devotees at Baripada in Orissa, death of Haj pilgrims at Mecca and the earthquake in Iran. During the Session, 600 Starred Questions and 4578 Unstarred Questions were admitted.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Leader of the House—in between Mr. Jaipal Reddy who became the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, is the Leader of our House...*(interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): *de facto* Leader of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: ...*de facto* Leader of the House and I hope you will be an effective Leader of the House. With his co-operation, with the co-operation of the Leader of the Opposition and various parties, groups and other hon. Members, we have been able to perform our duties and complete all the business. I, on my own behalf, on behalf of the Chairman and the panel of Vice-Chairmen, thank all of you.

6.00 P.M.

I thank the staff of the Secretariat who have taken their job seriously and done their duty. I wish all the Members a very happy inter-Session. My good wishes to all the Members, if there are any celebrations or festivals, etc.

SHRI M.A. BABY: Also for good monsoons.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, my good wishes for good monsoons. Is there anything else that I can add because if the House wishes, I am sure, God is going to listen too?

SHRI M.A. BABY: I hope the women's Bill is passed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I wish that the women's Bill is passed in the next Session. We will now have the National Song before I adjourn the House.

(The National Song was then played.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I adjourn the House *sine die*.

The House then adjourned *sine die* at two minutes past six of the clock.

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